



RELIEVING THE HOSPITALS. A SURE PREVENTIVE FOR HEAT STROKE PROVIDED BY THE CITY.

JOYS OF STREET CHILD.

Summer Sports the City Provides for Tenement Children.

Passengers on Sound steamers have one sure means of determining when summer has come. It is the blossoming of the rocks along the upper shore of Manhattan early in the season with youths disrobing for a plunge in the miniature breakers created by passing vessels.

While to those most sensitive to such evidences of immodesty it would seem that all the youngsters of the city were paraded before their shocked eyes, this is far from being true. This "free and easy" method of keeping cool is only enjoyed by a few of the most daring, who prefer it to the many more conventional ways provided by the city and by private philanthropy to mitigate the discomforts of summer and to provide for the wholesome occupation of the spare time of the youngsters during vacation.

School boys and girls and the small children, for example, may play in the small parks all day long under the guidance of competent directors. A visit to one of the vacation playgrounds is an interesting experience. Small children are banking up moist sand beneath

canvas roofs. Others are playing kindergarten games under the direction of interested directors. They sing songs and play "Ring Around a Rosey" with all the joy of irresponsible childhood. The older ones are battling balls, trying to drop a basketball through the iron ring high above their heads, leaping over the horse or swinging on the flying rings and horizontal bars. Watching and assisting the boys are strong muscled directors. With an ease and repose born of perfect physical development they show the boys how the various feats should be performed.

In the evening the scene is different. The park has become the promenade of the occupants of the neighboring tenement houses. Many young men who have been toiling through the day are exercising on the gymnastic apparatus.

The city offers many opportunities to get away from the stuffy rooms where sleep is as difficult to secure as a fortune. Stretching out into the dark waters of the East and North rivers, with their shifting lights, are recreation piers. Upon the tops of many of the new schoolhouses are roof playgrounds. Music helps the evening air to soothe and refresh the tired toilers.

For those who would take their baths in a less public manner than those who shock the

involuntary spectators by disporting themselves upon the rocks or wish to take them in a different form, there are floating baths anchored along the river front and shower baths in some of the schoolhouses and parks.

Each year the opportunities to go to the country for outings ranging from one to two weeks in duration increase in number. Thousands upon thousands of children secure this pleasure. Many more thousands of mothers and children are taken on excursions on the river and bay.

Most of those who have formed any opinion upon the subject look upon the gymnastic apparatus in the small park as a great benefaction to the neighborhood. "Here the boys and young men have an opportunity to use up their spare steam," they say, "and secure strong muscles at the same time. What a blessing it is!" There is also another point of view. It was expressed the other day by a patrolman, a part of whose beat is along the street fronting on Seward Park. He was standing near a police telephone box "killing time," as he put it, until he should have to report himself "on post." Across the street a multitude of men were swinging on the flying rings and horizontal bars and pulling themselves up on the elevated ladders. Looking toward the apparatus as he stood beside the box, the patrolman remarked:

"This park is no good. There's a park for the

little children just over there. That's all right. But this park is no good. These fellows are all loafers. That fellow swinging by his arms can do that all right, but he can't do anything else. They don't do anything but learn to be second story men. The boys don't get any good from it. If they are tardy at school they are afraid to go back in the afternoon. Then the truant officer comes twice a week and drives them back to school.

"Then there's the baths and the bath pavilion. It cost \$100,000. These people don't appreciate what they've got. Why, this city spent \$9,000 on the marble alone. It's too fine. The people take it as a matter of course. They think it is something they're entitled to. Why, when the place was first opened they stole all the brass handles on the doors, and the baths had to be closed up for a month while some new ones were put on. Wait until I've reported and I'll take you over to see them."

THE ASTUTE LION.

John Burroughs, the naturalist, was laughing about the story, widely published not long since, of a wild duck that got a salt water mussel caught on its tongue and had intelligence enough to fly from the salt to the fresh water, where it dipped the mussel, sickening it through osmosis, and thus causing it to loosen its firm grip.

"I believe that story of the duck that understood the theory of osmosis," said Mr. Burroughs. "I believe it as implicitly as I believe the story of the crippled lion and the young lieutenant."

"Perhaps you have heard this story? No? Well, then:

"A young lieutenant, during an African campaign, came one day upon a badly crippled lion. The great brute limped over the tawny sand on three paws, holding its fourth paw in the air. And every now and then, with a kind of groan, it would pause and lick the injured paw.

"When the lion saw the young lieutenant it came slowly towards him. He stood his ground, rifle in hand. But the beast meant no harm. It drew close to him; it rubbed against him with soft, feline purrs; it extended its hurt paw.

"The lieutenant examined the paw, and found that there was a large thorn in it. He extracted the thorn, the lion roaring with pain, and he bound up the wound with his handkerchief. Then, with every manifestation of relief and gratitude, the animal withdrew.

"But it remembered its benefactor. It was grateful. And in a practical way it rewarded the young man.

"This lion ran over the regiment's list of officers, and ate all who were the lieutenant's superiors in rank. Thus, in a few weeks, the young man, thanks to the astute animal, became a colonel."

SHARP PRACTICE.

E. R. Thomas, at the Indian Harbor Yacht Club, was commiserating a motor boat captain who had been jockeyed out of a race.

"Between the Swift and the Dart," said Mr. Thomas, "you were pretty badly done. You were the victim of sharp practice. You remind me of a colored man who lay ill of a fever.

"This colored man was treated for a time by one doctor, and then another doctor for some reason came and took the first one's place.

"The second physician made a thorough examination of the patient. At the end he said: "Did the other doctor take your temperature?"

"Ah dunno, sah," the patient answered. "Ah 'in't missed nothin' but mah watch as yet."



GUIDING THE SMALL BOY'S ENERGIES IN VACATION TIME. A preventive for lawlessness furnished by the city.